

Voter Registration

KRS Chapter 116

- ❖ To register to vote, you must:
 - be a U.S. citizen and a Kentucky resident for at least 28 days before the election;
 - be at least 18 years old by the next general election. If you will be 18 by the November general election, you are eligible to vote in the preceding May primary election;
 - not be a convicted felon, or else have had your civil rights restored;
 - not have been adjudged mentally incompetent and had voting rights removed;
 - not claim the right to vote outside Kentucky.
- ❖ You can register to vote via mail or at:
 - County clerk's office;
 - Driver's license office, if applying for or renewing your driver's license;
 - K-TAP, Food Stamp, Medicaid, WIC and state-funded offices serving individuals with disabilities, if a client of the office; or
 - Armed Forces Recruitment offices, if a prospective member of the armed forces.
- ❖ Update your voter registration if you move.
 - Within county: notify the county clerk of your new address or update your driver's license. The county clerk will tell you the location of your new precinct. If you do not do this before Election Day, you will be directed to the precinct for your new address and must update your registration address when you vote.
 - Outside the county more than 28 days before an election: update your voter registration address with the county clerk or update your driver's license at least 29 days prior to the election. If you do not notify the county clerk in either your old or new county of residence 29 days before an election, you are not eligible to vote in either county.
 - Outside the county fewer than 29 days before the election: you may vote in your previous county of residence, but you must immediately register to vote in your new county of residence.
 - If you change your name, either renew or update your driver's license, notify the county clerk by writing or visiting his/her office, or fill out a new voter registration card.
- ❖ Applications to register to vote must be turned in to the county clerk's office by COB or postmarked at least 28 days prior to the election.

Absentee Voting

KRS 117.085, KRS 117.087

- ❖ **Mail-in Absentee Ballots:** Applications for mail-in absentee ballots must be received by May 12. Voters eligible for a mail-in absentee ballot are:
 - Military personnel, their dependents, and overseas citizens
 - Military confined to a base on Election Day
 - Students who temporarily reside outside the county
 - Voters who temporarily reside outside Kentucky (e.g., vacationers)
 - Voters who are incarcerated but have not yet been convicted
 - Voters whose employment takes them outside the county for all days and hours the polling place is open
 - Voters of advanced age or who suffer from disability or illness
 - Voters who are participants in the Secretary of State's Address Confidentiality Program
- ❖ **Voting Machine Absentee Ballots:** county boards of elections must begin in-person absentee voting at least 12 working days before the election. Voters who may vote absentee in person are:
 - Military and their dependents
 - Military confined to a military base
 - Student temporarily residing out of county
 - Voter, and spouse, who has scheduled surgery
 - Voter who will be absent from the county all hours polls are open
 - Woman in her last trimester of pregnancy
 - Precinct officer, alternate serving outside precinct, county board member, deputy clerks, and State Board of Elections staff
- ❖ Counting of absentee ballots will begin not before 10 a.m. on Election Day, and results will not be released until after 6 p.m., prevailing time.
- ❖ Information contained in absentee ballot applications will not be made public until after close of business on Election Day. *KRS 117.085(10) and KRS 117.086(7)*

Voter Information Center (VIC)

Visit the Voter Information Center at www.elect.ky.gov to determine whether you are registered to vote, where to vote, and eligibility to vote in the *partisan* primary races. You can also view a sample ballot for your county.

Closed Primary

- ❖ A voter must register as a Democrat or Republican by December 31, 2014, to be eligible to vote in that party's May 2015 Primary. If a voter chooses a political registration other than Republican or Democrat or changes political party registration after December 31, 2014, the voter cannot vote in the Republican or Democratic primaries. All eligible and registered voters, regardless of political party registration, may vote in the November 2015 General Election and any special election. *KRS 116.055*.
- ❖ If you choose not to register as a Democrat or Republican, you may register as "Other" and specify the name of your chosen entity (e.g., Constitution, Green, Libertarian, Reform, Socialist Workers, Independent, etc.). *KRS 116.045*.
- ❖ Voter registration records are public information. Any citizen may inspect or make copies of any registration record. *KRS 116.095*. However, your social security number will not be disclosed.

Election Day

- **Hours of Voting:** 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., prevailing time. At 6 p.m. the Precinct Sheriff goes to the end of the line and stays there until everyone in front of him/her has voted. Anyone in line by 6 p.m. is given the opportunity to vote.
- **Voter Identification:** All voters must produce identification or be known by a precinct officer prior to voting. Acceptable types of ID are personal acquaintance of precinct officer, driver's license, Social Security card, credit card, or another form of ID containing both picture and signature. *KRS 117.227 and 31 KAR 4:010*.

Who is Allowed in the Voting Room?

KRS 117.235, 117.255 and 31 KAR 4:090

- Precinct Election Officers
- Voters
- Anyone assisting a voter
- Voting machine technicians
- A minor child accompanying a voter
- Duly appointed challengers
- Law enforcement officers
- Representatives conducting mock elections for school children
- Members of the media

Electioneering

A federal lawsuit is pending regarding whether the Kentucky law restricting electioneering is constitutional. As of the date this Guide was printed:

- ❖ On Election Day, no person may electioneer within 300 feet of a polling place “in a public forum or on property on which a polling place is located.” There is no restriction on electioneering on private property. *KRS 117.235(3)*.
- ❖ On Election Day, a voter may have a bumper sticker (within 14”x5”) affixed to his/her vehicle while parked within or passing through a distance of 300 feet of any polling place for a reasonable amount of time in which to vote. *31 KAR 4:170*.
- ❖ During the hours absentee voting is conducted, no person shall electioneer within the interior of a building or affix any electioneering materials to the exterior or interior of a building designated by the county board of elections and approved by the SBE for absentee voting. *KRS 117.235(3)*.

Check-Off List Prohibited

Other than official use of the precinct signature roster and challengers, no person allowed in the voting room, including precinct election officers, may use paper, telephone, cell phone, or computer to create a check-off list or record the identity of voters. *KRS 117.236*.

Challengers -- Primary Election

KRS 117.187 and KRS 117.315-318

Each county political party may designate up to two challengers in each precinct in the county.

- ❖ All challengers must receive training.
- ❖ Challengers may question the eligibility of a voter of the same political party for the following reasons:
 - Is not a duly registered voter in the precinct;
 - Is not a resident of the precinct;
 - Is a convicted felon; or
 - Is not the person he/she claims to be.
- ❖ Challengers shall not:
 - Challenge a voter of a different political party;
 - Speak directly with a voter being challenged;
 - Electioneer;
 - Handle election materials;
 - Attempt to intimidate or harass, verbally or otherwise, any voter who is being challenged or any precinct election officer;
 - Behave in any manner to disrupt activities at the polling place; or
 - Attempt to interfere with the proper conduct of the election.

Voting Equipment

- ❖ The SBE certifies voting machines that can be sold in Kentucky. Voting machines are purchased by the county fiscal court.
- ❖ Every polling location has a voting machine accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- ❖ For a detailed listing of voting machines by county, please visit www.elect.ky.gov.
- ❖ The county board of elections has the discretion to choose which voting equipment to use on Election Day, as long as the requirements of state and federal law are met.

Voter Assistance

KRS 117.255

- ❖ Voters with physical disability, blindness or inability to read English may request voting assistance at the polls on Election Day.
- ❖ If a voter has a physical disability or is blind, he/she may apply to the county board of elections for permanent voting assistance.
- ❖ A person may not be assisted at the polls by his/her employer or employer’s agent or an officer or agent of his/her union.

KENTUCKY 2015 PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE



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